

Appln No. 10/747,774

Amdt date September 4, 2007

Reply to Office action of May 2, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated May 2, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Tu, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,968). In so rejecting, the Examiner asserts that Tu discloses a rigid probe having an ablation electrode. Office action, page 2. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection over Tu.

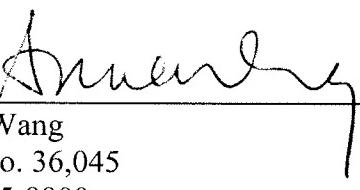
Tu fails to disclose a *generally rigid* probe body, as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17. Rather, Tu discloses a catheter probe that is deflectable and maneuverable through the vasculature of the heart. See column 4, lines 53-59, column 6, lines 23-33 and column 7, lines 39-61 (describing the steering mechanism used to cause the catheter probe to bend and deflect as it is maneuvered through the heart vasculature). As the Tu catheter probe is necessarily bendable and deflectable to navigate through the heart vasculature, it is not generally rigid, as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 are allowable over Tu.

The Examiner also rejected claims 3-9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Tu in view of one or more of Alt (U.S. Patent No. 5,411,527), Sterman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,906) and Lucas, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,332). However, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 are allowable over Tu as discussed above. Each of claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 14-16 depends from one of independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17, and is therefore also allowable over Tu. None of Alt, Sterman and Lucas remedy the deficiencies of Tu, as none of these references teaches or suggests the irrigation probe recited in any of claims 1, 3, 7 and 17. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 14-16, are allowable over Tu, Alt, Sterman and Lucas.

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Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application. In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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